

ABSTRACT

A catheter apparatus for use in a body passage. The catheter comprises a catheter shaft and an expandable conduit defined by a filter mesh material of varying porosity mounted on said catheter shaft. The expandable conduit has an upstream end and a downstream end, the expandable conduit having a collapsed position in which the expandable conduit is collapsed toward the catheter shaft and an expanded position in which the upstream end of the expandable conduit is open to fluid flow. The expandable conduit has an upstream sealing member at the upstream end of the expandable conduit for creating a seal between the upstream end of the expandable conduit and an internal wall of the body passage.